

# DEREHAM BLUES FESTIVAL

## NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

### Dereham Blues Festival 2025

9th - 13th July

Dear 'Blues' Fans, the excitement is building as the Dereham Blues Festival draws closer, and we're thrilled to let you know that everything is on track for another fantastic year! Behind the scenes, our dedicated teams have been working hard to make sure every note, venue, and artist is ready to deliver an unforgettable blues experience. From scheduling to staging, their passion and effort are helping shape what promises to be one of the best festivals yet. Dereham is getting ready to sing the blues in the best possible way!

A record number of 155 bands applied to play at this year's festival. All bands have now been informed of their successful application. You can find a full list of bands and where to watch them on the Dereham Blues Festival website.



**DEREHAM BLUES FESTIVAL**  
Wednesday 9 July  
Dereham Memorial Hall

International world renown rhythm and blues boogie woogie keyboard legend and vocalist

# Mike Sanchez

and his six piece band

Direct from the 100 Club - only 9 UK dates in 2025

Tickets from Ticketsource /Whats on Dereham

Followed by four days of free wall to wall blues all hosted in Dereham's finest pubs and clubs

For more information visit [www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk](http://www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk)

Support us - become Friend and of Dereham Blues Festival and buy a wristband

More sponsor information soon

A performance not to be missed!

### Introducing Mike Sanchez!

Tickets for the Opening Concert are selling well, please avoid the last minute rush and get yours now to avoid disappointment.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/fodmh/t-pqdxnkz>

Once described as "the finest, most exciting, most entertaining artist in British rhythm and blues", Part Latin gigolo, part rockabilly hellcat" Sanchez left Britain for Spain and the continental festival circuit years ago. His pulsating boogie-woogie piano has taken him round and round the world. Mike's high energy, theatrical personality, characterised by big hair and flamboyant stage suits earned him the title 'Bossman of Boogie', whilst his supreme technique made him three times British Blues Keyboard Player of the Year.

Expect explosive piano, hot vocals and phenomenal support from guitar, trumpet, saxophone, stand up bass and drums, in Mike's classic rock 'n' roll, rhythm 'n' blues and rockabilly six piece line up.

### DEREHAM DAY 10TH MAY

As we gear up for this year's Dereham Blues Festival, we're putting out a call for extra help with promotions, especially in the run-up to Dereham Day. We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help spread the word, handing out flyers and chatting to people about the festival.

Every little bit counts, and we could really use some extra hands to keep the momentum going. If you've got a bit of time and a love for live music, please get in touch with us at [info@derehambluesfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@derehambluesfestival.org.uk)

Let's make this the biggest and best festival yet, with your help, we can!



Want to help keep the festival alive and kicking? You can support us by playing the Breckland Lottery, a fun and easy way to give back, with a chance to win while helping us bring the blues to Dereham year after year. Every ticket you buy helps us keep the music playing! Click link below to sign up.

**Super Draw**  
WIN A LUXURY CITY BREAK!  
OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE

Win a Luxury City Break or £1,000 Cash!  
Play the Super Draw before Saturday 26th April and you could be in with a chance to win a Luxury City Break - or £1,000 cash!

Our Breckland Lottery

## Dereham Blues Festival Needs YOU!

We're also on the lookout for passionate volunteers to help our promotions team! If you love live music and want to be part of the buzz that brings the Dereham Blues Festival to life, we'd love to hear from you. Whether it's putting up posters, helping with social media, distributing flyers, or simply spreading the word, your support can make a big impact. It's a great way to get involved, meet fellow music lovers, and be part of something special. Would you be willing to have one of our sponsors Minors & Brady's house boards in your front garden to help promote the festival?

If you're interested and can offer any help please do drop us a line at [info@derehamb bluesfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@derehamb bluesfestival.org.uk)  
Let's keep the blues alive together!

### Survey Prize Winner Announced for Dereham Blues Festival 2025!

We're excited to announce the winner of our Dereham Blues Festival Survey Prize Draw  
**Leon Thorogate!**

As a thank you to everyone who completed last year's festival survey, all responses were automatically entered into a prize draw. We're thrilled to share that Leon's name was drawn at random, and he will receive two free tickets to this year's Dereham Blues Festival Opening Concert, taking place on Wednesday, 9 July 2025, at Dereham Memorial Hall.

Leon was personally presented with his tickets by festival founders Doreen and Stewart Aitken, who were delighted to thank him in person for his continued support of the festival and his feedback. The Opening Concert is always a standout event, kicking off several days of incredible live blues music throughout the town.

Congratulations again to Leon, and a big thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. Your feedback helps us shape and improve the festival each year.



For all general enquiries  
please contact

[info@derehamb bluesfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@derehamb bluesfestival.org.uk)



### A Huge Thank You to Our Festival Sponsors!

The Dereham Blues Festival wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of our sponsors.

Their generosity and community spirit help us bring the magic of live blues music to the heart of Dereham year after year.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to:

**Salus Mortgage Solutions**  
**Stephenson Smart**  
**Camtrak**  
**Minors & Brady**  
**Norfolk Blues Society**  
and the  
**Friends of Dereham Memorial Hall.**

Your support not only helps us host amazing artists and events, but also keeps the festival vibrant, accessible, and rooted in the local community.

Thank you for being a vital part of the Dereham Blues Festival family!



*Until next time...*